

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 ORM-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 ITFE-05 IO-10 L-03 DODE-00

AID-05 /077 W

----- 095925

R 280152Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 357

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 3685

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, VN, MY

SUBJ: ALLEGED SVN SHIP "TROUNG VINH" IN PENANG, MALAYSIA

1. U.S. CITIZEN ROBERT SANCHELLI CALLED ON CONSULAR OFFICER TO DISCUSS A FORMER SOUTH VIETNAM SHIP, THE "TRUONG VINH" CURRENTLY ANCHORED APPROXIMATELY TWELVE MILES FROM PENANG, MALAYSIA, ALLEGEDLY OWNED BY A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE NOW RESIDENT IN U.S. AND CARRYING A U.S. REFUGEE DOCUMENT. SANCHELLI ADVISED THAT THE SHIP HAS BEEN REREGISTERED UNDER PANAMA FLAG AND RENAMED THE "CHUNG SANG."

2. PORTION OF VIETNAMESE CREW WISH TO RETURN TO VIETNAM AND SANCHELLI SOUGHT CONOFF ASSISTANCE IN ASSURING THESE CREWMEMBERS THAT SHOULD THEY GET TO U.S., AND STILL DESIRE TO RETURN, THAT THEY WOULD BE PERMITTED TO. CONOFF GAVE SUCH ASSURANCES REFERRING TO STATED USG POLICY THAT REFUGEES WHO WISHED TO RETURN TO SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO UNHCR TO ARRANGE THEIR RETURN.

3. MEANWHILE, PRG IN NOTE TO GOM HAS LAID CLAIM TO VESSEL, REFERRING TO IT AS THE "TRUONG VINH" AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE GOM TO RETURN VESSEL TO "RIGHTFUL OWNER." ADDITIONALLY, CREWMEMBERS WISHING RETURN TO VIETNAM

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ARE REPORTEDLY BECOMING RESTLESS AND POSSIBLE

MUTINY IS FEARED. CONOFF ADVISED SANCHELLI THAT AS
VESSEL IS NOT OWNED BY U.S. CITIZEN AND NOT U.S.
REGISTERED, U.S. COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY "PROTECTIVE
ASSISTANCE." SHOULD DIFFICULTY OCCUR ABOARD IT WOULD
BE UP TO MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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